MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 NOVEMBER 1981

Autonomy Talks

At the end of the ministerial-level Palestinian autonomy talks in Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali read a final statement on the points of agreement among the participating delegations. Reporting on the statement, Cairo radio said it reiterated the parties' adherence to the Camp David agreement as the only path to peace in the Middle East and their determination to continue the negotiations. The radio said they continued to work toward agreement on a declaration of principles and understanding, which will help to create practical measures for the transitional phase. MENA reported that after 'Ali read the statement he and Israeli delegation head Yosef Burg, the Israeli interior minister, held a press conference. 'Ali said the talks focused on the powers and responsibilities of the proposed autonomy administrative council, but that "there is still a gap between us." Asked if there is a target date for completion of the talks, both 'Ali and Burg agreed that while there is a goal, there is no set date for achieving it. 'Ali explained that no declaration of principles and understanding had been made becuase there is continued disagreement over "certain main points." Burg acknowledged that while some progress has been made in certain areas, there has been none in others, adding, however, that "we have become more aware of our points of difference."

A Jerusalem radio report said the latest round of the autonomy talks had resulted in no progress.

According to the radio, earlier in the day Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met with the Israeli negotiating team for a little less than an hour. Afterward, Mubarak told newsmen that he will visit Israel next year, MENA reported. Jerusalem radio said that during the meeting the president repeated several times that he has "taken note" of Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statement that Israel has made all the concessions it can.

Egypt

Indictment of Plotters -- MENA transmitted the text of the indictment released by the military prosecutor against 24 persons involved in the 6 October assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat. The document notes that the various offenses call for the death sentence.

Charges of Prison Deaths; Hunger Strike -- AFP reported that three Muslim fundamentalists arrested last month after the assassination of President as-Sadat have died under torture, according to allegations by their relatives. AFP noted that a senior Interior Ministry official dismissed the allegations as baseless and also denied a charge by the Muslim Brotherhood this week that an editor of the organization's magazine, Kamal as-Sananiri, arrested during the September purge, died on 9 November in a prison near Cairo.

AFP also reported that in the same prison other prisoners held in connection with the As-Sadat assassination have entered the eighth day of a hunger strike protesting the legal and physical conditions of their detention.

Israel

Arens Remarks -- Jerusalem radio reported that Israeli officials described as a "storm in a teacup" the furor over MK Moshe Arens' remarks in Washington that the Saudi peace plan is a "step ahead." In a statement to the radio, Arens said his remarks had been misinterpreted, adding that he had said that "extremist" Arab states are trying to create an impression of moderation through vague, albeit new, statements. The radio's Arabic service also broadcast a statement by Arens in which he said the Saudi peace plan goes "a little ways in the right direction, but a long ways from making Saudi Arabia a partner for peace negotiations with Israel." According to Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office believes Arens' remarks were a slip of the tongue. Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir said that, if Arens made the statement attributed to him, his candidacy for the post of ambassador to the United States should be reconsidered.

West Bank Disturbances -- IDF radio reported that the military authorities have decided to close Bi'r Zayt University for 2 months. The radio noted further Palestinian demonstrations the morning of 12 November in Janin, Nabulus, Hebron, east Jerusalem and near Bethlehem. According to another IDF radio report, the defense establishment hopes to quell the disturbances by a "firm hand." "The stamp of Ari'el Sharon is noticable in recent events in Judaea and Samaria," the radio added.

PLO

'Arafat on Fahd Plan -- KUNA reported that in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat noted that he welcomed Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's peace plan but added that the PLO has reservations about it.

Military Delegation to Hungary, GDR -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that a Palestinian military delegation arrived in Budapest for military talks with Hungarian officials. The delegation will also hold talks in the GDR.

Libya

Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio reported that a People's Foreign Liaison Bureau "source" had rejected Alexander Haig's statement that Libya might have been behind the attempted assassination of the U.S. charge d'affaires in Paris on 12 November. The source dismissed Haig's remarks as part of a U.S. "campaign of terrorism" against Libya, adding that Libya "could not resort to assassination as a political means."

Gulf Affairs

GCC Economic Agreement -- KUNA reported that Kuwaiti Finance and Planning Minister 'Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad said the economic agreement signed by Gulf Cooperation Council comprehensive framework for economic relations among GCC members. The agreement binds the GCC in a parallel and complementary manner, he said, automatically dissolving previous bilateral agreements. Among other things, it calls for coordination of oil industry policies.

Soviet Official on Gulf -- QNA reported that the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait told the local newspaper AL-QABAS that the Soviet view on Gulf security is identical with the Kuwaiti view.

Iran

Security Situation -- Tehran radio reported that Abolfazl Qasemi, secretary general of the Iran Party, was sentenced to life imprisonment by an Islamic revolution tribunal. Qasemi was charged with collaborating with SAVAK and former Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar. Meanwhile, PARS reported that 23 dissidents were executed in various provinces on 9 and 10 November and that 71 oppositionists were arrested in Lorestan, Mazandaran and Gilan in recent days. PARS also reported that Kurdish rebels killed two civilians and wounded seven others in Saqqez on 10 November. Citing a Revolution Guards Corps statement, Tehran radio noted that on the same day security forces killed nine Kurdish rebels in a shootout near Sanandaj.

Plan To Close Strait -- The London magazine AL-MAJALLAH, citing "informed diplomatic sources," reported that Iran has formulated a plan to close the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping in order to focus attention on the Iran-Iraq war. Although the Iranians have complied with Algerian advice not to proceed with the plan, AL-MAJALLAH said, they could still embark on the closure if the war with Iraq escalates.

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GOVERNMENT SCORES U.S. 'SCHEMES' AGAINST CUBA

LD130602 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 13 Nov 81

["Text" of 12 November statement issued by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] Kabul, 12 Nov (BAKHTAR) -- The United States imperialist circles have lately been whipping up tension in the Caribbean and putting pressure on the Republic of Cuba. Under the smokescreen of slanderous allegations about the "interference" Cuba into internal affairs of Nicaragua, Salvador and other Caribbean countries, the United States launched massive hysterical propaganda campaign against Cuba.

The White House officials had recently disclosed that the United States were going to set up a special 10 million dollars radio station to launch a total radio propaganda war against Cuba. President's national security adviser R. Allen has cynically revealed that the U.S. Government "has decided to break the Cuban Government control of information in Cuba." This is nothing else but an act of radio piracy and psychological warfare.

Top level members of the American administration have been making every day bellicose statements and threatening to use force against the Cuban people. For instance, A. Haig, U.S. secretary of state, disclosed a few days ago that the United States were planning a "punitive operation" against Cuba. According to "the New York TIMES" Pentagon is busy detailing the air force and naval "demonstration" of force near the shores of Cuba and enforcing a naval blockade of Cuba and Nicaragua.

To cover up their aggressive schemes against Cuba, the United States is trying hard to use the Latin American flag for this operation. According to the available information Pentagon summoned the army commanders of Chile, Paraguay, Haiti, Salvador, Honduras and some other countries to work out joint military actions against Cuba.

However the U.S. military and political establishment must bear in their mind that the Republic of Cuba is not alone in the world. It is a member of the socialist community of states. It is supported by socialist countries and all progressive-minded forces in the world. Therefore, the aggressive provocations of the U.S. imperialism are bound to collapse.

The people and the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan resolutely denounce the vicious schemes of Pentagon against the brotherly people of Cuba. We demand the immediate termination of the U.S. military blackmail against Cuba. Expressing their fraternal solidarity with the heroic Cuban people, the Afghan people say: "Hands of Cuba."

INTERIOR MINISTER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO USSR

LD111532 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1438 GMT 11 Nov 81

[Text] DRA Minister of the Interior Sayyed Golabzoy left for Moscow today at the head of a delegation for an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the USSR minister of internal affairs.

He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Dr Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Sher Jan Mazduryar, minister of transportation and tourism; Sulayman Laeq, minister of nationalities and tribes; 'Abdol Wahab Safi, minister of justice and attorney general; the general director of security and a number of high-ranking officials of the Ministry of the Interior; and representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Protocol Department.

Dr Faruq, head of the Interior Ministry's Political Department, is accompanying the minister of the interior on this trip.

VAJPAYEE DEMANDS GANDHI CONSIDER PAKISTAN PACT

BK091243 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 9 Nov 81

[Text] New Delhi, 9 Nov (AFP) -- Former Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today demanded of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's government that any offer of a no-war pact from Pakistan be considered thoroughly.

He ridiculed the recent statement of Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao that India had not received the reported offer in writing.

Reports quoted the opposition "Bharatiya Janata" (Indian People's) Party leader as saying at Indore, central India, answering reporters questions, that he was amused at the statement on behalf of the government that it had not received the Pakistan offer in writing.

"Let us react as a big nation in a mature manner. Let us not be afraid to talk, but we should not talk out of fear."

Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi had expressed doubts about the genuineness of the Pakistani offer in her public statements earlier. She had said Pakistan was acquiring sophisticated weapons and at the same time talking about a no-war pact with India.

HAQ CHARGE OF INDO-SOVIET COLLUSION REVIEWED

BK071515 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Oct 81

[Editorial: "Indo-Soviet Collusion?"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq's charge of an anti-Pakistan Indo-Soviet collusion is too absurd to deserve a serious rebuttal. But suppose for the sake of argument that his apprehension is justified, how should he seek to tackle the problem? Try to split this alliance or cement it by doing something which infuriates both New Delhi and Moscow? Look for possible divergences in long-term Indian and Soviet interests and objectives or ignore these altogether and assume that the two governments have a stake in the dismemberment of Pakistan? Assess which one is more inimical to Pakistan or take it for granted that both are equally and relentlessly hostile? We do not know whether the Pakistani policy-makers have engaged in such an exercise. But it is reasonably clear that they have chosen to pursue a policy which has annoyed India as well as the Soviet Union and must compel them to set aside the differences of interests between them and move closer to each other.

Pakistan's policy of forging a virtual military alliance with the United States, too, could make sense if, on the one hand, it believed that it is possible for the United States to shift the power balance in the region heavily against the Soviet Union and if, on the other, the regime in Islamabad was assured of the support of the people, especially in the areas bordering Soviet-controlled Afghanistan. As it happens, the U.S. effort to tilt the power balance in the Gulf region in its favour is subject to several uncertainties -- the Arab world is in turmoil -- and the Zia regime is highly unpopular, especially in Baluchistan. It follows that in opting for the policy of aligning itself with the the United States -- incidentally America is deeply distrusted in Pakistan -- President Zia has taken grave risks. It is possible to argue that he did not have much of a choice. The Pakistan Armed Forces are his only constitutency and soldiers like to get access to sophisticated weaponry. But General Zia's compulsions cannot detract from the basic proposition that he has launched Pakistan on a dangerous course.

In view of our experience with Pakistan in 1965 when it used U.S.-gifted weapons against us, it is only natural that we should be concerned over the proposed supply of highly sophisticated weapons by Washington to that country.

This is especially so since this time some additional adverse factions are in operation. Unlike at the time of the earlier treaty with Pakistan in 1954, America has not given us even a formal assurance that its weapons will not be used against us. Indeed, it has decided to ignore Pakistan's covert bid to manufacture nuclear weapons in disregard of its own commitment to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Finally, we do not possess and are not likely to possess for years a plane which can match the F-16 which Pakistan will soon be acquiring. But while we have to take the necessary measures to step up our defence preparedness, it may be useful to keep in view the risks to which General Zia may be exposing his country.

When President Ayub Khan decided to take us on in 1965, he was assured of quiet on his western front with Afghanistan. Now that front has become active. That is, of course, at least partly the result of the policy President Zia has chosen to adopt. But that policy is a fact. General Zia cannot reverse it easily. He will continue to protest that his country is not training, arming and harbouring Afghan guerrillas and that it is not serving as a conduit for U.S. weapons for them. But this is not going to reassure the Russians and their Afghan allies. They know the truth, that Pakistan is actively assisting the mujahidin.

They will retaliate, though in all probability they will not escalate the conflict in a hurry. Afghan soldiers and planes have already raided and strafed guerrilla camps and other sites in Pakistan several times in recent months. President Zia himself expects them to engage in hot pursuit. It is not possible at this stage to spell out the possible consequences. But it cannot be ruled out that a stiffening of the Soviet attitude may encourage the anti-Zia elements in the whole of Pakistan and the secessionist elements in Baluchistan.

And what if the Kremlin decides to encourage the Baluchi rebels now in Afghanistan to revive their armed struggle for independence? Wittingly or unwittingly, Pakistan has for the first time taken on the Soviet Union in an active sense. It will be interesting to watch developments on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

BRIEFS

IRON ORE TO ROMANIA — India is to supply 5 million tons of iron ore, valued at about 700 million rupees, to Romania during the current financial year. An agreement to this effect has been signed in New Delhi between representatives of the minerals and metals corporation of India and the mineral import-export of Romania. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Nov 81 BK]

FRENCH COOPERATION IN HYDROCARBON — India and France have signed a memorandum to reinforce their relations for identification of specific areas of cooperation in exploration, production and processing of hydrocarbon. According to the memorandum, further interests of the two sides would involve an exchange of personnel and research and development. It will also provide for identification of joint research programs and cooperation in projects in third countries. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Nov 81 BK]

OFFICIALS SAID TO BE CONTEMPLATING HORMUZ CLOSURE

PM121715 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Nov 81 p 7

["From AL-MAJALLAH's Envoys" feature]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources have disclosed that an Arab state has received detailed and accurate information to the effect that Iran has drawn up a plan to close the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping in a bid to focus anew international attention on the war with Iraq. Upon receiving the information, that Arab state contacted Algeria and briefed it on the information it had received. Algeria then secretly sent a special envoy to Tehran to discuss this subject.

The sources said that the Algerian envoy advised the Iranian officials against closing the Strait of Hormuz because that would lead to superpower intervention to safeguard the normal passage of ships and would complicate the situation in the area.

The Iranians have complied with the advice, but it is still feared that they could embark on such a step in the event the war with Iraq escalates.

WESTERN REACTION TO AFGHAN PLAN CALLED HOSTILE

LD121740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Text] The Iranian plan for solving the Afghanistan problem is still being reviewed and discussed among political circles of the world. Political observers in Tehran said today that the West has shown a hostile reaction toward the Iranian plan and has practically taken position against it. Radio America [presumably Voice of America] sarcastically referred to the Iranian plan as a plan for making a new Iran in Afghanistan, and in this way attacked the plan. The plan has also been strongly rejected by the mass media of some countries which are traditionally friends of U.S. imperialism. They are most sensitive toward the section of the plan suggesting that Russian soldiers be replaced by an Islamic peace-keeping force, because Islam is the main danger for U.S. imperialism in the region.

MAJLIS DEPUTY CONDEMNS FAHD PEACE PROPOSALS

LD121938 Tehran PARS in English 1758 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 12 Nov (PARS) — Speaking on the so-called peace plan proposed by Saudi Prince Fahd for the Palestine issue, a Majlis deputy today said that it was not possible to tolerate "an Israeli dagger in the back of Muslims."

Speaking in today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis), Tehran Deputy F. Hejazi said that the shaykhs who are busy on the orders of their masters, making so-called peace plans, did not realize that the Muslim Arab nations would never recognize the usurper country of Israel.

Concerning the coming conference of Arab countries in Fes, Morocco, he warned the shaykhs to be aware that their period of sovereignty (?would) swiftly come to an end if they accepted (?such a) plan. Referring to Iran's [words indistinct], he stressed that Afghanistan (?must) be freed from Soviet occupation.

TEHRAN: COOPERATION COUNCIL SUPERPOWERS' TOOL

GF120823 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Excerpts] The second phase of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has started 7 months after the unfriendly birth of a Gulf alliance that is being blessed by the United States and the Soviet Union.

When the region witnessed its establishment [words indistinct] to an ominous military alliance, the GCC members and those who are behind them affirmed that the GCC is no more than an economic cooperation organization, and that it would not turn into a military alliance. What has changed so that it is today becoming a unified defense structure supported by the Gulf chiefs of staff? [passage indistinct]

[?Did not the Americans and their agents say a thousand times that the GCC is nothing more than an economic group? However, this will not change its aggressive attitude toward the people of the region and the Islamic Republic. In this regard we have to refer to two incidents that coincide with the convocation of the current summit meeting. The first is the Israeli violation of Saudi airspace and the second is Saudi Arabia's war against the Islamic Republic in the press, radio and television. These two incidents are linked to the convening of the summit conference in form and substance in a way that cannot be ignored. [Words indistinct] reveal many important facts on what is going on.

The Israeli warplanes crossed into Saudi airspace to [words indistinct]: First is the initiation of joint Gulf security and defense and the second is [words indistinct].

The two incidents closely overlap. The studied plan will be [words indistinct]. The imperialist circles -- in cooperation with [words indistinct], have been trying in one way or another to change the GCC's economic structure into a military one. The Israeli violation was an important topic during the summit meetings. The topic will give priority to the military issues resulting from the Israeli (?attack) so that the GCC's second summit will result in a military alliance directed by imperialist circles and will be similar to NATO. Here we have to recall the wish which NATO members have long cherished. They have been trying to form a NATO branch in the Middle East to protect the eastern flank of the allied countries under the NATO cover. Their wish came true when the GCC was established. Saudi Arabia found in the Israeli violation of its airspace the excuse through which it can change the (?name) of the Gulf economic council to a defense alliance.

As for the other goal of the alleged Israeli aggression, it was to give Saudi Arabia the description as a confrontation state with Israel so as to apply this aggression to the capitulatory project which Fahd announced a few months ago.

Imperialist circles believe that the success of this project depends on the Palestinians' recognition of it and on their acceptance of the solutions which it contains. This will not take place unless the Palestinians are certain of the good intentions of this initiative. These circles believe that they can proceed with the game if they simply make a few final retouches that disguise the plan and its planner -- a disguise of hostility toward Israel and of compassion toward the Palestinians. It is an undeniable fact that Palestinian recognition of Israel has been the most cherished dream of the Israeli enemy ever since the occupation of Palestine. This dream has now been fulfilled for Israel by Prince Fahd in this [words indistinct] plan.

As for the other incident which coincided with the Riyadh conference, it is the open declaration of war against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the information media in Saudi Arabia. [Words indistinct] the question is: Why was this brutal campaign launched on the first day of the GCC summit? Does this mean that the GCC is directed at the Islamic revolution and against [words indistinct]?

Let us forget what was written and said and go back to the clear truth. Let us look for the reasons behind the establishment of the GCC in the White House and the Kremlin. The project was not put forward by Gulf hands, as it is alleged. It was in the minds of imperialists ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution. These imperialists were thinking of how to [words indistinct] against the storm that was created by the Islamic revolution. Hence, the GCC was created through the joint efforts of the superpowers.

From the U.S. side, Brzezinski, the national security adviser of the former U.S. President, put forward the strategy of the (?charter) in the Middle East, which included the countries following in the footsteps of the United States.

On the Soviet side, [words indistinct] and Brezhnev suggested the first form of the project. We have in mind the proposals which Brezhnev made in New Delhi and which were called "Brezhnev's Gulf proposals" more than 2 months before the establishment of the GCC.

Out of these facts we can reach a clear conclusion: The main (?reasons) for the establishment of the GCC were to counter the Islamic revolution in the region and to stand as a solid edifice in the face of the Islamic Republic. Time has revealed bit-by-bit the real goals. They [words indistinct] that disgraceful failure will be the result of all plots, conspiracies, held or unheld councils aimed at striking out against the Islamic revolution, because it is the revolution of millions of people and which was (?created) for the oppressed and the (?destitute). The United States has tried its luck many times. Let other parties try.

TEHRAN ASSAILS UK MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVES

GF101554 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Nov 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Surrender plans have become a commodity in the hands of the British broker, Carrington, who has dedicated himself to establishing conciliation between the Arab regimes and the Zionist entity. He has never stopped for one day. All his actions and activities are distributed among London, Riyadh and the European capitals. Some people call him another Kissinger seeking peace. He does not hesitate to follow in the footsteps of the former broker, Kissinger, who had an effective role in preparing for the Camp David process that concluded with the Egyptian-Israeli conciliation.

Observing the differences between the two missions, we find that the game is the same even though the place and time have changed. The development of time and events has given Britain this effective role in the reconciliation process between some Arab regimes and the Zionist entity. British Prime Minister Thatcher's policy is well known for its great concern with foreign affairs, unlike those who preceded her as prime ministers of the British Government. She has been attempting to win applause for her foreign policies ever since she was elected to that office.

Needless to say, this British concern has come forth at the expense of Britain's unsettled domestic situation. In order to exercise her principles, Mrs Thatcher has repeatedly visited so-called centers of conflict or axes of world politics. The Gulf region has been visited several times by Thatcher and the other members of the British Government. The United States has blessed these ambitions and has backed the British stand on different occasions because any stand the British Government takes is surely in its favor as well.

Having finished the Camp David process and having started the final phase of the problem, the United States sought to distribute the roles in a fashion commensurate with the current stage. The features of this stage are summed up in rejection by Arab and Islamic public opinion of Camp David and the major role the U.S. administration played in that process.

The new allocation of roles was established as follows:

A plan to complement Camp David was set forth by one of the Arab regimes to avoid the storm the Camp David accords caused. This role was given to the Saudi regime that has presented the new submission plan under the title "the Saudi initiative." The other role was given to the reactionary regimes in the region through their support campaign for the Saudi plan as a national pan-Arab plan. The Gulf countries will perform their role by presenting the plan to the Arab summit conference in Fes in order to give it the Arab imprimatur as one of the important decisions of the Arab summit.

The U.S. role played at Camp David was given this time to the British Government because of the sensitivity that overt American interference in the new plan could cause. Britain, indeed, has committed itself to the role assigned to it by the U.S. administration so that its name will accompany the new submission. Hence Carrington's moves and bargaining came into being. One of the strangest of these moves was the statement he made yesterday that he is ready to meet with Yasir 'Arafat should the latter recognize the Israeli entity. This statement came forth as a result of the prelude and background provided by the U.S. administration and its stooges in the Arab world. The U.S. administration and all its lackeys insinuate that the solution of the Palestinian problem is in the hands of Mr Carrington and that the conditions of the game are in Britain's hands. Thus, whoever wants to have a part in that game should coordinate with Carrington.

From the course of events and statements, observers deduce that the new American objective is to embroil the Palestinians in the auction game in order to resolve the problem peacefully. For that purpose, the U.S. administration has charged the Saudi regime with presenting its own peace plan. It also charged the British Government with bolstering this plan on behalf of Europe and America.

Yes, it is a difficult test for the PLO. Either it enters the game accepting the Saudi clan, and by so doing destroy the Israeli-Islamic conflict at the roots, or it assumes a decisive stand toward the submission plan the way it did with Camp David, and continues to uphold the principle of "what has been taken by force cannot be restored except by force."

VOICE OF IRAN ON SYRIAN EMBASSY'S ROLE

NC121330 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 11 Nov 81

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpts] After Khomeyni was established on the ruling throne, the Syrian Embassy undertook a number of duties in relation with the affairs of Iran. Its first duty was to establish contacts with the leadership in Iran, to identify its weak points, its contacts and, in general, the personality and alertness of its officials, to invite them to visit Damascus and to pave the ground for gaining the cooperation of the most suitable of them at any cost.

The second duty was to exchange information with the military attaches of the Libyan and PLO embassies in Tehran.

The third was to submit the information gathered through the Syrian ambassador in Tehran to the Soviet Embassy in Tehran. You may not know that the present Syrian ambassador in Tehran is a retired high-ranking official of the Syrian Army. Of course, in appearance it is an exchange of information, but in reality the relationship is unilateral because it is the Syrian Embassy in Tehran that is devotedly placing its information at the disposal of agents of the intelligence and information service of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran.

The fourth duty of the Syrian Embassy is to play the role of middleman between the leftist national unity of Iraqi Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, and the clerical government.

The fifth duty is to create adequate facilities for Syrian intelligence experts stationed in the center of the political and information studies of the Revolution Guards Corps and who are giving the necessary training to the members of this corps in crushing groups and combatants.

Finally, the sixth duty of the Syrian Embassy in Tehran is to procure and support the officers and cadre of the Syrian Army who are working in the joint office of Iranian-Syrian military cooperations under the aegis of the regime's Defense Ministry.

It is in no way our intention to analyze each and every one of these points. At a time when the Iranian Army is at war with another foreign country, we do not allow ourselves to study and discuss security matters and we consider doing so under the present conditions contrary to the interests of Iran. But suffice it to say that the Syrian Government and, being subject to it, that government's embassy in Tehran should consider the grave consequences of interfering in the domestic affairs of a country like Iran. Undoubtedly, exploiting the weakness and decadence of the clerical regime cannot be neglected in the future, since the Iranian nation grants itself the right not to forgive governments that, in these sensitive moments, are stabbing it in the back, are plundering its national wealth and interests in the guise of a friend, or are helping in crushing the freedom fighters.

Since we want good relations with the Syrian nation, we want to draw the attention of Syrian Government officials to the acts they are committing in Iran. Meanwhile, the brave Iranian nation should know that its children, both within Iran and outside, are carefully following all the actions and reactions that are connected with the destiny of our ancient country. If in some cases they are silent, it is mostly because they have Iran's lofty, long term interests in mind.

Long live Iran!

GHARAZI ON OPEC PRICES, AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

LD112022 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 11 Nov 81

[Text] Mr Mohammad Gharazi, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today in an interview with reporters in connection with the Iranian oil said: According to the decision adopted by the recent session of the OPEC, the price per barrel of Iranian oil (?stands) on $34.20 and the price for the heavy crude by market [word indistinct] stands at $33 each barrel.

In connection with the long term price plan, which has been proposed by the Saudi regime, he said: The present price of the oil is due to the political pressure and that oil has still not found its real price.

The oil minister, in connection with the result of the negotiations held between Iran and Japan concerning the completion of the petrochemical complex [word indistinct] in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, said: Iran is resistant upon its demand for the implementation of this contract as well as the completion of the said [word indistinct].

While referring to the breaking of the military siege of the northern part of Abadan, he said: By achieving this victory the political and economic strategy of Saddam in connection with domination over the oil and sea resources of the Persian Gulf was lost, and that this victory has had positive impact on the [word indistinct] as well as our negotiations in connection with the oil policy of Iran.

IRAN PARTY HEAD SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

LD121146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Text] By verdict of the Islamic revolution tribunal of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Abolfazl Qasemi, secretary general of the Iran Party, whose trial ended yesterday, was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was charged with collaborating with SAVAK on the basis of documents stored at the documentation center and on statements by Siavosh Karimi, head of SAVAK bureaus one and two, who was also one of Qasemi's contacts in SAVAK. He was also charged with cooperating with Bakhtiar, receiving financial assistance from him and endeavoring to overthrow the Islamic Republican system, on the basis of statements made by one of the political leaders of the coup plot of 9 July 1980 and on the stance adopted by his party under Bakhtiar's leadership before the revolution and under Qasemi's leadership after the revolution -- a stance hostile to the Islamic Republican order.

In view of the fact that Qasemi's personal participation in the abortive coup was not clearly established by the court and because of his old age and senility the sentence was commuted one degree to life imprisonment.

GUARDS KILL 10 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD121740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Statement by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] On 10 November a squad of Islamic combatants, made up of the self-sacrificing combatants of the Guards Corps, our brothers from the mobilization unit and Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, was dispatched to the hamlet of Navareh near Sanandaj to clear the area of counterrevolutionaries and clashed with armed desperadoes. During a shootout, nine counterrevolutionaries were killed and many weapons were captured by our combatant brothers.

Also, thanks to the efforts of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday the hamlet of Aslanik near Salmas was cleared of counterrevolutionaries. During this mopping-up operation, 16 weapons were captured from the outlaws. In a clash between our brothers from the Saqqez Guards Corps and agents of the pro-U.S. Komeleh minigroup [Kurdish leftist group] one of the agents was killed and another two were wounded.

PARS REPORTS CLASHES, ARRESTS IN KORDESTAN

LD121050 Tehran PARS in English 0910 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 11 Nov (PARS) -- Two civilians were martyred and seven others were wounded by counterrevolutionaries near the public cemetery of Saqqez in Kordestan on Tuesday morning. Confirming this, the governor of Saqqez said that several persons were arrested in this connection. Meanwhile, in a clash on Monday night, one counterrevolutionary agent was killed and two others were wounded near the same place. During these clashes, one soldier, one member of the mobilisation organisation and one Muslim Kurdish peshmerga were martyred. In another development, five members of Rastagari Iraqi-backed feudatories, who had gone to Iraq some time ago, introduced themselves to the Islamic combatants and surrendered their guns on Monday in Sanandaj.

Also, 11 members of the Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP) introduced themselves to the Islamic revolutionary guards in Kamyaran, Javanrud (in Kermanshah) and Takab (in Kordestan Province) on Tuesday.

Also, 25 active political and military members of the outlawed KDP, and other American-backed groups of Komeleh, Feda'iyan-e Khalq were arrested in Mahabad, it was announced today. In other operations, five outlaws were killed and one army personnel was martyred.

Since the outbreak of Iraqi aggression against the Islamic Republic, many political groups, including the outlawed Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP), which is led by Abdorrahman Qasemlu, an old Zionist, or other groups such as Rastagari, which was formed by Iraqi-backed feudatories, or the Maoist Komeleh party, have lost their popularity, when the people realised their links with the aggressor Iraqis.

AFP CITES PRESS ON VIOLENCE IN NORTHWEST REGION

NC111800 Paris AFP in English 1746 GMT 11 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Tehran, 11 Nov (AFP) -- Several security operations were reported today from northwest Iran and its Kurdish-populated areas, where numerous arrests were made following bloody clashes with the opposition.

"Dozens of counter-revolutionaries," according to the newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC, were arrested today at Mahabad, Western Azarbayjan, in the course of a mopping-up operation "prepared with great care."

In the same city, where clashes caused 25 dead last week, seven men were also arrested today "several of whom have confessed" to planting explosive charges on a highway last Monday which a military convoy was scheduled to take, the paper specified.

Two more clashes last Monday were reported from Urumiyeh in the same region by the newspaper KEYHAN, one pitting revolutionary guards against "armed opponents," the other an ambush by "hypocrites" against a leading local cleric. It is the left Islamic oppositionist Mojahedin who are officially referred to as "hypocrites."

Two other violent incidents occurred near Amol, in the Mazandaran area of north Iran, according to the same paper. In the first, three "counter-revolutionaries" attacked a revolutionary guard patrol car, killing one guard. In their counterrattack, the guards, according to the paper, killed one of the assailants and arrested the two others.

In reprisal, the report went on, other "counter-revolutionaries cut the road from Amol to Tehran, threw grenades, shot into the air and began distributing leaflets" but "were forced to flee by our (guard) brothers."

CLANDESTINE DISCUSSES TUDEH-MOJAHEDIN TIES

NC111703 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 10 Nov 81

[Talk in series on Mojahedin-e Khalq, Soviet intelligence and information service ties]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In our previous talks discussing the secret ties between the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization and the Soviet intelligence and information service, we also revealed the implementation of the militia plan which was borrowed by the Mojahedin from guerrillas and terrorists of Latin America and extreme rightists in Lebanon and how the Mojahedin have employed zealous Iranian youths between 16 and 20 years of age to implement this plan in Iran. We also said that after going through preliminary stages of training in camps in mountainous and forested regions of Iran and then in Fatah camps in Lebanon, 30 of these youths were sent to the Soviet Union some time ago, where they are to complete their political and military training in special camps of the Soviet intelligence and information service and to be then trained as the future leaders of the Mojahedin.

In continuing our talk and revelations on the ties between the Mojahedin and the Soviet intelligence and information service, we want to briefly glance at the points and topics raised during the trial of Mohammad Reza Sa'adati, since some of the points brought up by Sa'adati at the trial manifest the way of thought and the assessment that the Mojahedin have of relations with Soviet officials.

First of all, we should say that that which is called a "trial" in the clerical regime is actually a painful play that saddens all free-thinking people and bothers the conscience of all those devoted to Islamic justice. The world also basically condemns these plays and does not consider Khomeyni's courts of injustice as competent and legal authorities in studying accusations brought against anyone. Even though we believe that Mohammad Reza Sa'adati was in contact with the Soviet intelligence and information service contrary to his moral, national and social duties, nevertheless we believe that he should not have been tried in Khomeyni's court of injustice. Therefore, our reference to the remarks and confessions made by Mr Sa'adati is in no way to the justification of the court, but only aimed at clarifying some points that have been forgotten with the passing of time and because of the Mojahedin-e Khalq's propaganda.

During his trial, Mohammad Reza Sa'adati was asked: Do the Mojahedin-e Khalq consider the Soviet Government to be a justice-seeking government and a defender of the oppressed, or does it consider it to be a colonialist government? In reply, Sa'adati said: I think that this point is clarified in the organization's publications. The reply to this question needs further study. I think that these topics are not related to the bill of indictment.

The court asked: My question is, do you consider the Soviet regime to be a good regime or a bad one? Sa'adati replied: the United States is the main enemy, and as long as we do not uproot the roots of this Satanic domination of U.S. imperialism in our society, it will always be considered the main enemy.

In explaining his relations with agents of the Soviet intelligence and information network and the handing over of documents to them -- an act that is customarily and by virtue of the laws of any country and regime considered as spying for a foreign power -- Sa'adati replied: Imam 'Ali, may peace be upon him, says in letter 23 of the NAHJ AL-BALAGHA that "my spy in Morocco says..." Well, maybe some may consider the informing of the imam of plots is spying or treason, but this action -- that is, contacts with the Soviets -- is not spying but aimed at preserving a system.

If we pay careful attention to what the late Mr Sa'adati said, we can see that he has clearly brought up two points. The first is that the contacts with the Soviets was toward the preservation of a system -- that is, Khomeyni's regime -- and the second is that in struggling against the United States, cooperation with the Soviet Union is justified.

Well, is the Tudeh Party saying anything contrary to this? The Tudeh Party also says: Let us form a "united front of the people," or, in other words, let us join all our strength to struggle against the United States in a united pro-Soviet front, and let us all join hands to preserve Khomeyni's regime.

From where do these common points between the Mojahedin-e Khalq and the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party stem? A glance at the record of activities of these two will lead all logical people to reject the claim that the Mojahedin-e Khalq intend to destroy the regime, because if it did intend to destroy the regime it would not be sending Iran's brave and devoted youths to the altar of Khomeyni to be sacrificed. We believe that all the efforts of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, as Mohammad Reza Sa'adati said in the regime's court, are aimed at preserving the regime, but the intention is to use the Mojahedin-e Khalq's pressures and force together with the Tudeh Party's treacheries to bridle this savage and wild regime and to lead it down the path chosen by the Soviet leaders.

In ending our discussion, we want to pose some questions to our compatriots and listeners to further clarify the stances of the Tudeh Party and the Mojahedin-e Khalq and the role played by the Soviet intelligence and information service. The questions are as follows: Were the contacts between the Mojahedin-e Khalq and the Soviets severed after the arrest of Mohammad Reza Sa'adati while he was meeting and handing over documents to agents of the Soviet intelligence and information service? What are the necessities and reasons for the Mojahedin-e Khalq's contacts with the Soviet intelligence and information service? How is it possible that the Mojahedin-e Khalq -- which has risen for some time now against the usurping and illegal regime in Iran -- has never risen against the Tudeh Party which claims to support the clerical regime? Can united enemies be divided and only part of them be attacked in such a bloody and difficult war? Is the Tudeh Party, the friend and ally of the clerical regime, not considered to be the enemy of the Mojahedin? Is there a nonagression pact between the Tudeh Party and Mojahedin, or is this what the Soviet officials want? Does the pressure imposed by the Mojahedin on the clerical regime lead to the strengthening or the weakening of the Tudeh Party and, if it leads to the strengthening to the Tudeh Party, is this contrary to or in conformity with what the Mojahedin-e Khalq wants?

Basically, why is the Tudeh Party supporting the Khomeyni regime and why has Khomeyni's regime -- even though cooperation with kaffirs and people denying the existence of God has been banned in Islam -- agreed to cooperate with the Tudeh Party, the Soviet Union and other communist regimes and organizations? And, finally, to where are the Mojahedin's pressures, the Tudeh Party's treacheries and the incompetence of the ruling mullahs leading Iran?

It is not very difficult to answer these questions. It will take a little bit of thought for one to fathom the depth of the treacheries. This is the duty of each Iranian who loves Iran. It is the duty of each noble and independent Iranian to think on these points and to strive for Iran and to prevent Iran from being destroyed more than it has been.

COMMUNIQUE 696 REPORTS BATTLE SUCCESSES

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[Communique 696 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Some operations and sacrifices by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and situations on the battlefronts are hereby brought to the attention of the beloved Muslim compatriots of Iran:

Yesterday, on most western fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and the forces of the aggressive Iraqi Army continued and our powerful forces deprived the Saddamists of any opportunity to repair or complete any fortifications, dealt effective blows against them and inflicted considerable losses upon their forces.

On the Piranshahr front, the combatants of the ground forces, crushing the enemy's positions and fortifications, damaged two tanks and three mortars of the Iraqi forces.

The heroes of the gendarmerie opened mortar fire on the Iraqi positions on one of the Dehloran fronts, destroying one ammunition dump, six slit trenches and two observation posts of the enemy and killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel.

On the western Dezful fronts, the combatants of the ground forces opened artillery and heavy-weapon fire on the enemy positions, destroying one tank, putting another out of action, and setting fire to and destroying two trucks and one ammunition dump of the enemy. On these fronts the enemy suffered more than 12 dead and wounded.

On the Ahvaz fronts, exchanges of fire continued with our strong combatants enjoying fire superiority; four Iraqi troops were killed and one of their 82-mm mortars was destroyed.

On the Susangerd and Dasht-e 'Abbas fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued, during which losses and casualties were inflicted upon the Iraqi forces.

On the Abadan fronts, the victorious combatants of the ground forces, opening heavy fire on the artillery, armored and infantry positions of the Iraqi forces, halted their movement and activities, silenced the fire of the Saddamists' weapons, set fire to and destroyed seven vehicles, one ammunition dump and one fuel tanker, and destroyed some of the Saddamists' equipment and weapons. The forces of blasphemy on these fronts suffered more than 50 dead and wounded.

The heroes of the navy and the combatants of the police unit returned enemy fire on the fronts of Khuninshahr and Abadan and destroyed a number of the enemy's personnel and weapons positions.

Yesterday, a number of intruding aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Army violated the airspace of several western and southern border citiies in our country, but they were forced to flee by the barrage of fire from the air defense units.

During the battle carried out on 10 November of this year, nine of the devotees of the ground forces gave their clean lives defending the honor and dignity of Iran, our Islamic homeland.

IRAQI AIRCRAFT BOMB ABADAN; DEZFUL ATTACKED

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[Text] According to PARS, six enemy aircraft violated the airspace of the resistant city of Abadan this morning. The violation took place in two separate raids, at 0940 and 1120.

The enemy aircraft were forced to retreat by the intense and coordinated fire of our air defense unit, but during their escape the aircraft, flying at high altitude, dropped cluster bombs on some parts of Abadan.

According to a Central News Unit report from Ahvaz, Ba'thist aggressors fired two cannon shells on residential districts of Dezful this morning, demolishing several residential units. The report indicates that there were no casualties.